

It was a packed church, at the Chapel of Ease on Sunday, January 28th 2018 as members of the Marine & Ports division, people from the fishing industry as well as friends and family turned out for the Annual Seafarer's Service.

This was the first year for Rev. Tom Slawson to be presiding over the service as Rev. David Raths had finished up last year. Bishop Nicholas Dill gave the sermon and made the statement that this is his favourite service. Bishop Dill stated that the sea is an amazing force, it is beautiful and it is powerful, as he made mention of the tall ship Marques that was caught in a squall in 1984. There was a crew of 28 on board, 9 survived and only one body was ever found.

Rev. Slawson then blessed the wreaths that would normally be taken out to sea in remembrance of those who had been lost to the sea, this year the wreaths were laid near the waters at the memorial for those lost at sea at the Battery in St. David's.

Bro. Mario Thompson, Deputy Pilot Warden, said this is a service for all those who serve at sea and to remember those who have been lost to the sea. Bro. Mario then gave the Young Mariners roll call, there are at least 12 young Bermudians studying and working to make their careers in the seafarer field. He made special mention of Erin Greg who is the first female Navigational Officer of Bermuda. She is currently working on a research vessel in Norway, her father was in the congregation. Bro. Mario informed the congregation of the program with the Endeavour and there may be a program for older people in the works, also there is an initiative to open up a Maritime Academy.

It is worthy to note that Bro. Odwin Berkeley Sr., a former President of the Portworkers Division, at the age of 92 is always present at this service; his son Bro. Odwin Berkeley Jr., who is a Pilot at Marine & Ports, makes sure that his father is present at the service.

After the service all were invited to lunch at the home of Bro. Kenneth Millett.

The Bermuda Industrial Union would like to thank all our brothers and sisters of the Marine & Ports division for the work they do on a daily basis for the Bermudian public and visitors. In attendance at the service were members of the Executive Board, Brothers: Chris Furbert, Glen Simmons, George Scott, Graham Nesbitt and Arnold Smith. Sisters: Molly Burgess and Ronnie Burgess.